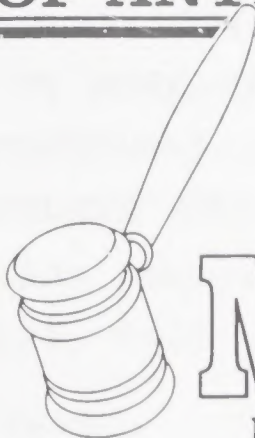




INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

President's



Newsletter

Number 79.

July, 1998.

A LOVE AFFAIR WITH TORONTO.

That's what our 20th Annual Convention turned out to be. Everything went just the way we planned it, only more so. The city was delightful, with so much to see and do, and weather that couldn't have been balmier. The Lake Ontario cruise, the tours of the city and the McMichael Art Gallery, the visit to Toronto's first post office, the luncheons at Old Ed's (a collector's haven) and Mövenpick, the program and its emphasis on Canadian scales and scale lore, the Silent Auction, the gala banquet ... it all came together to make for a record-breaking attendance of convention-happy members.

Acknowledgements and thanks are due -- and easy to make -- at this time. First, to Utz and Shirley Schmidt, convention co-chairs, who worked from last December 'til beyond the convention's end, making sure every detail was provided for and in place. To Shirley, for also handling ISASC literature sales, resulting in \$609 of income. To Steve Ginsberg, who performed his usual yoeman service of printing and assembling all the badges and Silent Auction designations. To Bob Traquair, one of our Canadian hosts, who was busy behind the scenes taking care of arrangements, as well as participating in the program and making an early a.m. appearance on Toronto television, namely Channel 17's popular "Breakfast Television" show, to display and describe a number of scales. To Canadian members Bianca Gendreau (Curator, Canadian Postal Museum), Harvey Kotler, Joe Stroz, and Ed

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Walton, who edified our audience with some little known history about Canadian scales, along with examples. To Ted Stein, who, with spouse Jean, worked weeks before the Silent Auction and Let's Make A Deal to get it convention-ready, and then recruited a corps of volunteers to run (as runners) the event. (Noteworthy statistic: Proceeds from the ...Auction and ... Deal came to \$22,730, an all-time high, with ISASC netting \$2,273 in sponsor fees.). To member Peter DiCristofaro, who designed and produced for us, with his compliments, a handsome ISASC lapel pin for convention-goers (initially) and our entire membership (eventually but forseably). And to our overseas friends -- John and Betty Cheeseman, Jaap and Ronnie Visser, and Bob Holdaway -- whose company we so thoroughly enjoyed.

To those who attend every convention like clockwork and, in this instance, were obliged to forego Toronto for unexpected reasons, our sincerest regrets. And to all of our members, enclosed is a souvenir copy of our convention program, along with our hope that we'll see you soon at another convention.

AND ON THAT NOTE...

it's pertinent to let you know that our 1999 conclave will be in Atlanta, a first time for us. Our hotel is quite a nice one, located in the city's Ravinia district, and the dates are Thursday, May 13, to Sunday, May 16, 1999. Final observation: Mark your 1999 calendar now, so you don't overlook doing it later.

LINDEYER SALE/SECOND GO-AROUND.

Most of you will recall a few months ago the sale of several hundred scales, weights, etc., by Bill Lindeyer. Most were sold, but not all, and enclosed you'll find a list of what Bill has left that he's marked down in order to dispose of. Note carefully that the list continues on the back side of the page, where you'll find buying instructions. Who knows? It may be bargain day for you!

GOOD NEWS REPORT BY RUTH WILLARD.

It's getting to be common knowledge that Ruth, Associate Editor of EQM, is doing an exceptional job these days bringing budding authors into her fold. The result has been a journal that today features an almost 50% ratio of articles about American scales and scale-related subjects (rather than the occasional article that used to be). We've enclosed Ruth's report, which also contains sources for some first-rate books on weights and measures. All in all, well worth reading.

IT'S INDEX TIME AGAIN!

Three years ago, we distributed the second edition of our chronological Index, listing all EQM articles through 1994. As with the first edition, it was enthusiastically welcomed and immediately put to use by many of our members. Then we ran out (as did ISASC/Europe as well) so the obvious step we saw fit to take was to reprint a third edition, updated through 1997, and distribute it to all members as another benefit that comes with ISASC membership. The latest issue is enclosed, and one good use to put it to immediately is as a reference for ordering back issues of EQM containing articles you'd particularly like. And to do that, use the handy order form that's part of our latest library list, also enclosed. (By the way, our two latest publications, "Pictorial History of American Scales from 1850 to 1950," and "Scales-Scales-Scales" have become our current best sellers.)

OF BY-LAWS AND ELECTIONS.

As of March 1, 1998, the current directors approved revised by-laws, which called for the election of directors and officers to serve terms starting January 1, 1999, on a staggered cycle. Subsequently, a general election was held by all members for three directors, with 117 members casting their votes for three director-nominees. The three nominees--Bob Stein, Jan Macho and Eddy Konowitz--were elected by a near-unanimous vote, and their first task, as mandated by the by-laws, will be to elect a slate of seven officers, all to take office January 1, 1999, and serve on a staggered cycle. The directors will hold this election of officers no later than autumn of this year.

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PUBLICITY KEEPS COMING.

** Enclosed is a reprint of an interesting article on scales in the Summer, 1998, issue of Country Collectibles. Originally in full-color, the black and white rendering still conveys the appeal of the collection, which is attributed in the article to "... the Hopkins Home." At the moment, we have no member named Hopkins, but when the Hopkins family reads about themselves, they'll undoubtedly see our name and hasten to join.

** Ruth Willard just heard from Carol Singer, Editor & Publisher of CAL LAB, The International Journal of Metrology. Carol had learned of us through member Dale Reed, and she offered to run a profile of ISASC in the CAL LAB publication. We immediately accepted her offer and sent her material, so one of these days our Society profile should appear in their journal and we'll be sure that our members see it soon after it's published. Also, Carol extended an invitation to any ISASC members who would like to write an article on historic scales to contact her. As a first step, call, write, fax or log her on the Internet, as follows: Carol Singer, Editor & Publisher, CAL LAB, 6136 Mission Gorge Road, Suite 224, San Diego, CA 92120; Tel 619/281-6250; Fax 619/281-6279; office @ callabmag.com. And if you do get underway with an article, by all means let Ruth Willard know. Most likely she'll be able to lend a helping hand.

** Member Gloria Lipfert writes to tell us that in the May-June issue of Silver Magazine she's having an article published which traces the corporate history of a scale company in Pennsylvania. The article called for much research, and will include a great many illustrations, so we can look for it to be a scholarly addition to the scale lore we seem to accumulate at every turn.

MISCELLANY.

** Reminder. Keep in mind that ISASC/Europe's fall convention is scheduled for Sunday, October 18th of this year at Avery-Berkel (home of the Avery Scale Museum) in Warley, West Midlands, England.

You're bound to have a grand time, and to learn more about it, write John Corfield, Woodfield, Longhills Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6DS, England.

- ** Chicago must have a fascination for Atlantans. A few weeks after the Laycocks visited us (the Steins), we heard from Jim Kelly, who told us that he and wife Ann were planning a Chicago trip on their way from Atlanta to Toronto for ISASC's convention, and could they see our scale collection en route? Naturally, the answer was "by all means," and in mid-May, the Kellys made the Stein scale scene from beginning to end and then some. And most likely, their impressions of almost 600 postal scales prepared them for the Silent Auction and some acquisitions of their own.
- ** Directory Supplement #1 for 1998 is enclosed, again testifying to the continuing growth our Society enjoys. Our current membership count is now 356, and moving upwards. Add your Supplement to your Directory and you'll be 100% up-to-date.
- ** As you'll note, EQM No. 2 for 1998 is enclosed, and our game plan is to mail Nos. 3 and 4 together this fall in order to get caught up for the year. Our timing, of necessity, has to do with our editor's state of health, but we're happy to report that Diana tells us she's pretty much fit as a fiddle these days.

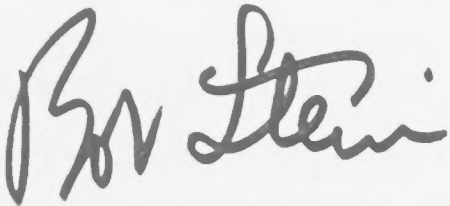
A PARTING BUSINESS NOTE.

During and following our Toronto convention, your officers and directors met on three occasions to deal with a lengthy agenda. All told, 13 different matters ranging from EQM status to upcoming elections to long-term funding to Internet opportunities (and more) were taken up and in a number of instances action steps decided on. Subsequently, the proceedings (or minutes, if you prefer), were transcribed, edited and distributed to the officers and directors. In the past it's been our practice to offer a copy of the proceedings to any members who'd

like to know more about ISASC's business affairs, so if you're so inclined, simply call or write your president and request one (Bob Stein, ISASC, 300 W. Adams, Suite 821, Chicago, IL 60606; 312/263-7500). And while we're talking business, now's a most appropriate time to thank our current officers and directors for the time and talent they so generously provide ISASC in order to make things work. To Bill Doniger, Steve Ginsberg, Jerry Katz, Eddy Konowitz, Joe Lenorovitz, Jan Macho, and Ruth Willard, our deepest thanks for serving us in so many selfless ways.

On that note, we'll bid you adieu until a few weeks hence.

Fraternally,



Chicago Sun-Times

Time to weigh in with a bid

Windsors' scales, other items to go on auction block in U.S.

BY BRENDA WARNER ROTZOLL
STAFF REPORTER

The Duchess of Windsor was known for saying—repeatedly—“You can never be too rich or too thin.”

She stayed very thin and very rich from the day she married the Duke of Windsor, who gave up the throne of England for her in 1936.

Now we may know how she did it—at least the thin part. The couple watched their weight on bathroom scales manufactured in Bridgeview.

Those scales, along with 40,000 other objects from the Windsors' Paris home, will be sold at auction Feb. 19-27 at Sotheby's sales rooms in New York. The sale originally was scheduled for last September but was postponed because of the Aug. 31 deaths of Princess Diana and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, whose father, Mohamed Fayed, owns the contents of the Windsor mansion.

Chicagoans can bid from Sotheby's Chicago sales room on opening night. After that, they can call the Windsor hotline at (212) 606-7188 for information and (212) 606-7414 to make an absentee bid.

A Sotheby's spokesman estimated the Windsor possessions would fetch \$5 million to \$7 million. A similar estimate was made when Sotheby's auctioned the duchess' jewels in 1987. They ended up selling for \$50 million.

The duke's scale was a Health o meter model 131—33 inches high with a large dial at the top. It first was manufactured in Bridgeview in the 1920s.

The duchess' scale was a Continental Scale Works, standing 49 inches high. It too was made in Bridgeview.

Continental Scale Works was founded in 1919. In 1989, the company changed its name to Health o meter, which until then was its best-known brand name, senior product manager Tim Austen said.

It's the largest consumer scale company in the United States, holding 50 percent of the market and selling 3.6 million scales a year, Austen said. It employs 400 people in Bridgeview. Health o meter now is a division of Ohio-based Signature Brands.

Signature vice president Don Levine said the duke's Model 131 scale has a waist-high speedometer dial and “the type of rack and pinion construction and engineering that goes into our medical products line.”

Health o meter also makes the physician's balance beam scale, with sliding weights on a bar, that is seen in many doctors' offices.